

Commission, he has served the community in many other ways throughout his life.

I am sure that he will continue to help many people in retirement, because Mike Brown has always had a heart for service. But I can assure everyone that our Nation would be much stronger if we had more citizens like Mike Brown.

I would like to call to the attention of my Colleagues the South Knox Shopper News which ran as a part of the Knoxville News Sentinel.

#### SOUTH KNOX SHOPPER NEWS

“BROWN CALLS RETIREMENT ‘BITTERSWEET’”

(By Betsy Pickle)

County Commissioner Mike Brown has a lot of years invested in Knox County—about 227 of them.

Brown is a member of one of the First Families of Tennessee. His Virginia-born Brown ancestors received a land grant of about 600 acres in the Stock Creek area around 1789—well before John Sevier became a neighbor. At the time, the land wasn't even in Knox County; it was part of Hawkins County.

So retiring after two terms on the commission has been “bittersweet” for the former insurance agent. Last Wednesday, on the day his service officially ended, Brown said he'd already done some county business in the morning, and he wasn't going to call it quits until 5 p.m. rolled around.

Brown himself grew up on Stock Creek Road with his younger sister, Pat, and brother, Tom, both now deceased. He went to Bonny Kate School when it was “four classrooms, a lunchroom and two paths down the hill to the little brown buildings.”

He remembers spending time at his grandparents' place, where he now lives with wife Jan. About 42 acres of the original property remains in the family's possession.

Taking care of the land is a passion of Brown, who's out tending to his Muscatine vines when a Shopper reporter arrives. He drives his Kubota four-wheeler out to his barn for a photo session. It's his “favorite toy.”

“I got it five years ago,” the 76-year-old says “I wish I'd had it 10 years before that; my back and body would be in better shape.”

Tooling—pun intended—around his “Country Cadillac” is his “golf.”

“This is my relaxation. I throw my tools in the back and I go around, and there's always something to do. I'll just piddle all day long, and I'm in seventh heaven.”

He loves fixing things—and plowing rows through his blackberry field. But he's not a farmer—or gardener.

“I don't have a green thumb. My grandma did; my sister did. Jan does. She's pretty good.”

Aside from 11 years working in furniture sales in the Midwest, Brown has always lived close to home. He loves the land, and he loves its history. That's what drew him to help start what's now called the South-Doyle Neighborhood Association in 1973. He and D.J. Krahwinkel are the only two left from the original group.

“It kind of died out for a while,” he says. “Any time a situation came up, I was the only one for years and years that went down to the County Commission or MPC to fight for the community.”

A little over 20 years ago, some neighbors started talking about reforming the group, and Brown was ready for them. It was then that he met Carson Dailey, his successor as Ninth District commissioner.

“Being on the commission has been kind of a continuance of this community work because now you're not only working for you

district, but you're working for the entire county with legislative decisions,” he says. “I have learned a lot about how government works, why it works that way.”

“I've met some wonderful people. We have a great bunch of leaders in the Knox County government from mayor on down.”

Brown says there's been an entirely new attitude on the commission since the infamous Black Wednesday, when the (then) 19 commissioners met to appoint the replacement officeholders and slipped term-limited politicians back into jobs. Commissioners now zealously adhere to Sunshine laws and avoid any appearance of violating them.

During the private and public service, he's proudest of having gotten a scenic highway designation for Gov. John Sevier Highway, keeping the road as uncluttered as possible; helping to organize Knox County's 225th anniversary celebration; and working to get the Safety Center established.

“I'd hoped we would have been able to get something inked before I went out of the office, but it's close.”

Even though he's off duty officially, Brown doesn't expect to end his service to the community.

“I enjoy helping people.”

#### RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER NEYMAN FOR RECEIVING A PATIENT ADVOCATE AWARD FROM THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christopher Neyman, a winner of the Patient Advocate Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona.

Chris's wife, Deb, suffered a catastrophic sequence of events in 2015, when she had two strokes and was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Throughout this immensely challenging time, Chris managed to care for his wife's every need while also caring for their two children, Tommy and Martha Jean.

With Chris's unrelenting support, Deb has made a miraculous recovery, and has even returned to many of her previous activities, such as teaching at the Glendale Area School District. According to many of those involved in Deb's treatment and care, Chris was an endless supply of support and motivation throughout Deb's recovery.

While his wife's positivity and impressive efforts to recover are worth celebrating in their own right, there can be no doubt that Chris has provided exemplary care. Given his admirable actions in support of his wife and family through a time of tremendous hardship, Chris is unquestionably deserving of this recognition. As such, it is my honor to help celebrate his having received this award.

#### HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY CANCER

#### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who have been touched by cancer and those lost to the disease.

Almost every family in America has been impacted by cancer, one of the great public health challenges of our time.

I am glad to honor my late mother, Hazel Payne, who lost her battle to brain cancer when I was four years old. And my late father, Congressman Donald Payne, Sr., who lost his battle to colorectal cancer four and a half years ago.

The best way we can honor those touched by cancer is to make the disease a national priority.

Today, we have a real opportunity to accelerate advances in cancer prevention, detection, and treatment, and to decrease the number of people suffering from this disease.

Congress should increase funding to the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute for life-saving research and advancement.

If we're going to win the fight against cancer, we need to provide the resources necessary to develop new treatments, and we need to accelerate research that is under way.

Organizations like the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, which held its annual Lights of Hope ceremony in Washington, D.C. last night, deserve our gratitude for their tireless efforts against cancer.

Only by coming together in this fight will we find a cure.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PAY EQUITY FOR ALL ACT OF 2016

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Pay Equity for All Act of 2016, a bill that will help eliminate the gender and racial pay gap by prohibiting employers from asking job applicants for their salary history before making a job or salary offer. Representatives ROSA DELAURO, JERROLD NADLER, and JACKIE SPEIER are original cosponsors of the bill. Even though many employers may not intentionally discriminate against applicants or employees based on gender, race or ethnicity, setting wages based on salary history can reinforce the wage gap. Members of historically disadvantaged groups often start out their careers with unfair and artificially low wages compared to their white male counterparts, and the disparities are compounded from job to job throughout their careers.

Our bill will ensure that applicants' salaries are based on their skills and merit, not on a potentially problematic salary history, by assessing penalties against employers who ask applicants for their salary history during the interview process or as a condition of employment. It would also provide job applicants and employees with a private right of action against employers who violate these provisions.

Although the wage gap has decreased for some women, it still persists for women and men of color with similar skill sets. There is much work to be done to address the wage gap for everyone, and our bill is just one step toward that goal.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.